



Kentucky Department of Corrections

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Department of Corrections Presents Annual Awards

*Janet Conover named Warden of the Year;
Chris Copenhaver takes P&P Supervisor of the Year honor*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 16, 2016) – The Kentucky Department of Corrections honored employees across the state recently at its annual Corrections Awards Luncheon in Lexington.

Janet Conover, the warden at Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women (KCIW), was named “Warden of the Year.” Among many reasons, she was selected for her exemplary leadership, which included implementing positive changes to move the institution and the Department of Corrections forward. She was also instrumental in the conversion of the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex (WKCC) to a female prison in 2010, and then back to male facility last year.

Chris Copenhaver was named “Probation & Parole Supervisor of the Year.” Copenhaver, who currently supervises District 12 in Frankfort, has served the division for 18 years. He was recognized for his no-nonsense approach and willingness to seek and implement change when and where needed.

The “Rookie of the Year” award was presented to Johnathan Stevens. Stevens began his career with the department on Sept. 14, 2015 at the Little Sandy Correctional Complex (LSCC) as a correctional officer. Officer Stevens was commended with demonstrating outstanding work ethic, an unwavering positive attitude and being a model employee to this profession.

The agency’s top awards, called “Commissioner’s Awards,” were presented to: Stephen Boles, a sergeant at Northpoint Training Center (NTC); Keith Helton, deputy warden at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex (EKCC) and Aaron Smith, warden of Kentucky State Reformatory (KSR).

Department of Corrections Hero Awards were presented to: Josh Dooley, correctional officer at Bell County Forestry Camp (BCFC); Kendra Keith, probation and parole officer for District 13; David Allen, offender information specialist at Green River Correctional Complex (GRCC); Kevin Straw and Joseph Myers, probation and parole officers for District 17 and Daniel Anderson, a sergeant at Roederer Correctional Complex (RCC).

Wade White, Lyon County judge-executive, was honored with the agency’s 2016 Lucille Hurt Robuck “Commitment to Corrections” Award for his video campaign called “Pay the Badge,” which lobbied for pay raises for DOC’s front line staff.

Editor’s note: photo attached

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